

# Clare Congregational Church Newsletter

**August 2021**

## **Comments from Pastor Connie**

There is a popular Christmas song played during my travels to and from the church. "God is On the Move" is the title.

When Jesus walked this earth, He taught that we will know how God is working by the "fruits" being produced. Lately, I've been encouraged by new beginnings at our church. A men's breakfast started and will continue to meet the third Saturday of each month. Breakfast is served at 8:30.

The women's group has grown to 12 ladies who not only eat lunch together but sell hot dogs and floats at Witbecks, send cards, help me put gift bags together for the teens at New Hope and the housekeepers at McClaren hospital. A new project is being explored for next Christmas and the possibilities of making pasties to sell is another avenue to be discussed.

There have been two new families attending worship. Also, I have been conversing with some youth on a regular basis. Frank, John, Ruth and LuAnne share special music during worship. Each Sunday morning lots of smiles and hugs are evident. Coffee hours have been well attended. The treats are more like a brunch than a snack. Barb brings fresh arranged flowers every Sunday for the altar.

God is on the move here at the Clare Congregational Church. Prayers continue to be offered for many requests. Food is shared. Donations continue to be given for the baby pantry. The basement is cleaned and organized. The commercial refrigerator has been moved to the kitchen.

Looking forward to the fall when even more evidences of God's blessings will be experienced. God is on the move! This continues to be The "Miracle on 5th Street", place to be. Thank you to everyone who continues to pray, work and support the church.

God's blessings,

Pastor Connie

## **Thank you Susan Marlow**

Susan Marlow, a former member of the Clare Congregational Church still receives the newsletter. After reading an article asking about fund raisers, Susan contacted Wanda about making pasties and an annual Christmas sale. Not only did she call, but she came and met with 5 members.

Her enthusiasm and willingness to help us try these fund raisers was amazing. She shared how NOW was the time to let people know we would be collecting Christmas decorations and items for a huge sale in November 2022. Items are all ready being collected. If anyone has items they want to share, please bring them to the church office or contact Wanda at the office (989)386-7582. Susan shared that their Christmas sale netted them \$1,300.

Also she has invited some of the congregation to travel to Clio where she and her friend will be demonstrating how to make the pasties. She also volunteered to come to Clare and help us with our first sale. What a blessing!! Thank you Susan!! You've been an inspiration to all of us who met you. Thank you for wanting to be our encourager.

## **Carrots— Onions—Potatoes Needed**

If any of you gardeners have extra carrots, onions or potatoes, call Wanda at the church office if you would like to donate some. They will be used in the pasties. There is a cool spot in the basement where they will be stored.

## **Stocking Seamstresses Needed**

Pastor Connie needs 20 Christmas stockings. She has the pattern and can also supply the material. The stockings are for Christmas outreach. If anyone would be willing to make one or more, please contact her.

## **New Hope Teens**

Gwen Tisdale continues to sew and financially support the teens at New Hope. Other ladies have also brought in items to share with the girls.

Presently Gwen is making angels that can be hung on a tree and will also hold gift cards. If anyone would like to help with this Christmas gift project, please see Pastor Connie. A ten dollar card will be placed in the angels. Donations for the cards would be greatly appreciated.

## **Baby Pantry Donations**

I am grateful every month for the donations given for the baby pantry. Even though much of this past year was a challenge, the ladies figured out a way to do a drive through.

Also, thank you to Teresa and Ruth for taking the donations to Harrison when I am not able to. I'm pleased to know the congregation continues to support this mission.

## **Men's Breakfast**

Come join us for food and conversation. All men are invited to attend the 3rd Saturday each month at 8:30 am. Our prayer is to grow together so we can help grow the church. If anyone has any questions, call Frank Bongard at (989) 506-6659.

## **Council Meetings**

Council meetings are the first Tuesday of every month at 12:15 (You are welcome to bring a sack lunch) **Our meeting for July has been postponed.**

**Church Information :** Secretary: Wanda Agle      Phone: (989) 386-7582

Office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday 10:00 am—2:00 pm

**Web Site:** [clarecongregational.org](http://clarecongregational.org)

**E-mail:** [office@clarecongregational.org](mailto:office@clarecongregational.org)

## August Birthdays

Phyllis Carrigan	08/01
Bridget Forsberg	08/01
Lily Forsberg	08/04
Rosemary Boucher	08/07
James Bouchey	08/13
Byron Schunk	08/21
Morgan Jones	08/22
Deana Joseph	08/24



## August Anniversaries:

Justin & Caitlin Walls	08/01
Bob & Meredith List	08/05
Matthew & Bridget Forsberg	08/09
Byron & Jennifer Schunk	08/18
Steve & Lynn Schumacher	08/23

## Facts & Figures:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>		<u>Offering</u>
July:	4	15	\$ 910.
	11	19	\$ 845.
	18	29	\$ 1591.
	25	27	\$ 1580.

## Serving this Month:

Officiating:	Pastor Connie Bongard
Accompanist:	LuAnne Humphrey
Liturgist	Dr. Kurt Keppner
Ushering :	John & AngieAllen

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

### Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Truman Glenn: c/o Green Acres, 1805 E. Remus Rd., Mt. Pleasant MI 48858

Dick Snyder: 401 Orchard Ave. Clare MI. 48617

### Health/Healing & Other Needs:

Bill Franklin	Tom Johnson	Christopher Jackson	Sean Gallagher
Patty (Humphrey)Hazen	Scott Taube	Mike Humphrey	Dave Stevens
Naja Budreau	Holly Kwiatkowski	Dan Finney	Jim Bertley

*Please help keep the prayer list current; if you know of changes, you may call the office (386-7582), leave a note for the secretary, or send an email ([office@clarecongregational.org](mailto:office@clarecongregational.org))*

***Please keep the 12 Foster Care girls that Pastor Connie mentors in your prayers also.***

# SURPRISE PARTY

September 12th will be an opportunity to share a card or a note with John Andrews for traveling from Ithaca to bless the congregation with his inspirational music. There will be a special potluck afterwards.

Wanda is over seeing that. John has been singing in churches I have pastored for almost 30 years. Recently he talked to me about retiring because he is feeling his age. However, for all the funerals, church parties and worship services he has donated his time and talents, I would like to return an act of kindness with a **SURPRISE !!**

